

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Hefner would move to return the bill for a specific amendment. The amendment is on page 2618 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I have a motion to return this bill to attach an amendment. This amendment is 1531. You will find it on page 2618 of the Journal. This is in regards to the minimum wage bill. I had...I was going to try it last night but we ran out of time and so I thought I would try it this morning, or this afternoon, I guess it is, but just a little background on this bill. This raises the minimum wage, state minimum wage from a \$1.60 per hour to \$3.35 an hour. I also passed out this amendment and a summary of it last night. I forget what time it was anymore but it was last night. This amendment would provide that employees employed by an amusement or recreational establishment, organized camps or religious or nonprofit educational conference centers need not apply with the minimum wage law so long as they do not operate for more than seven months in any calendar year. So what this bill is doing, this bill is strengthening our minimum wage laws, state minimum wage laws, stronger than the federal minimum wage law. Now, without this amendment, a number of recreational and amusement facilities throughout the State of Nebraska will be unable to hire students for part-time employment. It would simply be infeasible to pay students in accordance with the \$3.35 per hour provisions of LB 474. Here are some of the names of the establishments that will be affected. The Nebraska state parks, the Buffalo Bill Ranch, Peony Park, zoos, and other parks will be forced to comply with the wage and hour laws in Nebraska even though they are exempt under federal law. We're making our state laws more stricter than the federal law. Under the federal wage and hour law, there is an exemption such as the one proposed to be added by this amendment. The federal government has studied the wage and hour laws in great detail and has determined that an exemption for amusement or recreational establishments which do not operate for more than seven months in any calendar year is an appropriate exemption. Surely Nebraska should follow the guidance of the federal government and adopt a similar amendment. If such an amendment is not offered, establishments will be unable to hire school age children and teenagers for summer jobs. Thus, some of these students will be on the streets and not able to find a job. The Reagan Administration has consistently been opposed to raising the minimum wage